

CLAIMS

- 1 A terrain model element which includes a base of a foamed plastics material having adhered on an upper face a shaped layer providing the modelling terrain shape which is comprised substantially of latex.
- 2 A terrain model element as in claim 1 wherein the base is sheet-like.
- 3 A terrain model element as in either one of the preceding claims further characterised in that the foamed plastics material is a flexible foam.
- 4 A terrain model element as in any one of the preceding claims further characterised in that the foamed plastics material adheres to the latex by reason of being directly molded into the latex layer.
- 5 A terrain model element as in any one of the preceding claims further characterised in that the shaped layer is molded so as to be within a range of thickness, at least substantially through the extent of the layer of between 1 millimetre and 10 millimetres.
- 6 A terrain model element as in any one of the preceding claims further characterised in that the foamed plastics material fills or substantially fills an otherwise open cavity shape of an underneath surface of the shaped layer.
- 7 A terrain model element as in preceding claim 2 further characterised in that the shaped layer of latex is formed so that it includes parts that are adhering to an upper surface of the base material, and other parts of which are hollow and which therefore have a lowermost surface which is above and separate from an uppermost surface of the base material.

- 5 8 A terrain model element as in any one of the preceding claims further characterised in that during a forming and initial curing stage of latex, this is achieved by having at least a surface of the mould by which the shaped layer is formed that is such that it will absorb moisture from the applied latex.
- 9 A terrain model element as in the immediately preceding claim further characterised in that the mold is formed from Plaster of Paris, as it is implicitly porous and can absorb a significant amount of water.
- 10 10 A terrain model element as in any one of the preceding claims further characterised in that there is a coating on an upper surface of the shaped layer which is an acrylic based paint.
- 11 A terrain model element as in any one of the preceding claims further characterised in that the base unit is made from a urethane based foamed.
- 15 12 In combination at least two terrain model elements, which are, located one alongside another to provide a continuous terrain appearance and where each of the elements is as in any one of the preceding claims.
- 20 13 A terrain model element as in any one of the preceding claims further characterised in that an upper latex layer is formed, which has had a foamed plastics material molded and foamed directly on to the back or lower surface of the shaped layer.
- 14 A terrain model element as in the immediately preceding claim further characterised in that the foamed plastics material when foamed and cured remains flexible.

- 15 A terrain model element as in any one of the preceding claims further characterised in that the shaped layer includes an undercut shape.
- 16 A terrain model element as in any one of the preceding claims further characterised in that the shape in plan is hexagonal.
- 5 17 A terrain model element as in any one of the preceding claims in which the shaped layer latex is within a range of thickness's which is greater than 1mm and less than 10mm.
- 10 18 A method of manufacture of a terrain model element which includes the steps of forming a mold for an upper shaped layer of the element, which is adapted to effect a moisture reducing effect, applying liquid latex to the mold and leaving this so that at least some of the latex closest to the mold surface is caused to dry and effect thereby a thin layer of solidified latex; pouring out from the mold any excess of liquid latex, then effecting a backing to the thus formed shaped upper layer of latex which is of a foamed flexible plastics material.
- 15 19 A method of manufacture of a terrain model element as in the immediately preceding claim further including the steps effecting the backing by directly inserting catalyzed and foaming flexible plastic monomer into a cavity of the shaped layer.
- 20 20 A method of manufacture of a terrain model element as in the immediately preceding claim further characterised in that the mold is first coated before liquid latex is applied, by a dehydrating liquid.
- 25 21 A method of manufacture of a terrain model element as in the immediately preceding claim further characterised in that the liquid includes alcohol.

- 5 22 A method of manufacture of a terrain model element as in the preceding claims 18-21 further characterised in that the liquid latex is applied and left in the mold until a dried layer of thickness between 1 mm and 10 mm is formed after which the liquid remaining is drained off.
- 23 A terrain model element the result of the method as in any one of the preceding method claims.